Deer Valley Unified School District

Mrs. Deborah Johnson **623.376.3208**
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English Language Arts 3-4 **Room C208**

Course Description:
This course is a thematic approach to both classical and modern world literature. By incorporating both perspectives, students will not only develop an understanding of the individual within the world, but will also explore relevant, contemporary thematic links. Throughout the course, students will be provided with a myriad of opportunities to understand, evaluate, and clearly communicate ideas through reading, writing, speaking, and listening. This course offers expanded opportunities to use 21st century skills to enhance the learning experience and enhance course themes. This course is aligned with Arizona English Language Arts Standards and supports school-wide efforts to increase student achievement.

Course Objectives:
By the time the student completes this course of study, the student will know or be able to:

- Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
- Determine a central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including how it emerges and is shaped and refined by specific details; provide an objective summary of the text.
- Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.
- Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.

Major Units:

Fall Semester	Spring Semester
● Dystopian Short Stories ● *Anthem* by Ayn Rand ● Informative/Explanatory Writing ● *Night* by Elie Wiesel	● Rhetoric ● Argumentative Writing ● *The Tragedy of Macbeth* by William Shakespeare ● *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding

*Note: If there is a novel or play that you prefer your child not read, please indicate this on the signature form so that an alternate unit can be provided.

Grading:
Grades are based on a percentage of all possible points (100%-90%=A, 89%-80%=B, 79%-70%=C, 69%-60%=D, 59% and lower=F).

- Grades are cumulative for the semester. The first and second semester grades will be weighted as follows: 80% assessment and 20% classwork.
- No extra credit will be accepted.

The Deer Valley Unified School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. For any inquiries regarding nondiscrimination policies contact the Superintendent's Department, 20402 N. 15th Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85027. (623) 445-5000.

Report Cards:
In an effort to conserve resources and harness the capacity of our electronic grade reporting program (PowerSchool), district schools will no longer print hard copies of report cards unless requested by individual parents. To request a hard copy of your student's report card, please contact the front office at (623) 376-3000. To receive your PowerSchool login, please stop into the office with a valid photo ID.

PowerSchool Online Access:
Grades and attendance may be accessed 24 hours a day online with your PowerSchool access code. Access codes are available in the Administration office Monday - Friday 7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. You must provide a picture ID to be issued a code. You may check student progress regularly on the PowerSchool site using the same login for one or more students. For Mountain Ridge parents/guardians without home computer access, a computer with guest login capability is available in the Counseling Conference Room.

Academic Assistance/Office Hours:
In addition to the Academic Prep times built into our schedule each week, additional assistance/tutoring is provided on a weekly basis both by MRHS and individually by instructors. Office hours are by appointment only.

Absences:
After an absence, a student has one school day for each day missed to make up work/tests, regardless of the number of days absent. If many days were missed, please schedule an appointment with me to formulate a plan for the completion of make-up work. Make-up work for extended absences (over 3 days) may be requested through the Counseling Office and picked up there.

Late Work Policy:
Students have until the end of the unit to submit homework assignments with no penalty for lateness. Students may not submit classwork (in-class assignments due by the end of the class period) late for credit.

Assessment Policy:
Students may submit a request for a reassessment within five school days of the original assessment grade being posted in PowerSchool. Students may not retake/redo long-term assessments. The teacher will establish criteria for reassessment. The reassessment may be in a different format but will assess the same learning targets.

AI Statement:
In Deer Valley Unified School District, we are committed to providing our students with the best possible education while ensuring their safety, privacy, and well-being. As part of our ongoing efforts to enhance learning experiences, we may incorporate the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the classroom for students. However, it is important to approach this technology with caution and adhere to responsible data privacy practices.

DVUSD has determined that the use of Large Language Models (LLMs), such as ChatGPT, is prohibited unless clearly specified by your teacher. Specific guidelines will be provided in the assignment details. If you are unsure if the tool or website you are using is an LLM or if it is permitted on a specific assignment, please contact your teacher before submitting your work.

Academic Integrity: As stated in the Arizona English Language Arts Standards, students need to be college and career ready when graduating high school. To meet this standard, students will be expected

to accurately and consistently cite all sources used in their work and to submit designated assignments to turnitin.com, a plagiarism detection service. If it is determined that student work is plagiarized, appropriate consequences will be enforced per school policy.

Daily Device Use (iPads):
Students should come to class with their devices charged and ready to use in each class every day. Devices may not be used to record or take photos of other people without their consent. Consequences for classroom disruptions and misuse of devices will follow a progressive discipline model, beginning with a phone call home and progressing to office referrals for repeated or more serious offenses. See the Student Rights and Responsibilities consequence chart in the handbook for more specific descriptions of infractions and consequences.

Classroom Rules and Consequences
1. Be respectful to everyone and everything!
2. Enjoy food and drinks in designated areas such as the cafeteria.
3. Be prepared for class every day with the materials outlined on this syllabus.
4. Be in your assigned seat and begin your bell work before the bell rings.
5. Mature behavior will be displayed in and around the classroom.

Disciplinary Consequences:
If you are unable to abide by the classroom rules, your consequences will follow suit in a succeeding manner:

- Reteach expectation & conference with teacher
- Reteach expectation, conference with teacher, & phone call with parent/guardian
- Reteach expectation, conference with teacher, phone call with parent/guardian, & office referral

Recommended Supplies for this Course
1. Blue or black pens, or pencils.
2. Highlighters.
3. Composition Book or Spiral Notebook for taking notes and/or completing assignments that are not on Canvas.
4. Independent reading book of choice.
5. Downloaded apps: Notability, Chrome, Power Schools, Canvas